01215

1964/08/04

277. Telegram From the Department of State to the Embassy in Thailand[1]

Washington, August 4, 1964—6:03 p.m.

171. In view further attacks today on US Destroyer *Maddox* President has decided air strike should be carried out at once against torpedo boat bases and a fuel installation in North Viet-Nam. You should be prepared on receipt further message repeat on receipt further message, to notify Thanom and call emergency SEATO meeting to announce action and reasons therefor.

Slug reply Nodis–Pierce Arrow.

Rusk

---

[1] Source: Department of State, Central Files, POL 33–6 US–VIET N. Secret; Flash; Nodis. Drafted by Trueheart, cleared with Ball, and initialed by William Bundy. Repeated to CINCPAC.